

Osler says makes the red tincture of cinchona so valuable a drug—a beautiful color, a striking taste and a high degree of harmlessness (sometimes). It presents one other point, not without its psychological advantage, the relation of size of bottle to price. The druggist's remedy is sure to be in a larger bottle than the patient's prescription calls for, and for a less price. He leaves the store with his little bottle, after having a half hour's time to study the carefully exposed specialties of the druggist. What do you think will happen when two days elapse and the cold or stomach ache is no better? What is the most vivid picture in the patient's mind but the row of patent medicines with their alluring labels or the more fascinating druggist's substitute!

What chance has a doctor against the trained and insidious advertiser who has taken advantage of the patient to plant a few seeds of discontent! We will not discuss the chances, for that is not the point, but why not correct the objectionable debasement of the pharmacist's trade? Would surgeons tolerate hospital halls and operating-rooms lined with advertisements of sure cures for appendicitis, tumors, etc.? Why is not the pharmacist just the same necessary sort of a tool of the physician that an operating-room is of a surgeon? Why allow drug houses and druggists to prostitute the business of the true pharmacist?

The remedy is exceedingly simple and it would help the profession to apply it. Good pharmacists do not want to be under the thumb of manufacturers of proprietary stuff, and pride themselves on the high class prescription work they do. Why not publish in our Journal monthly, at the expense of the local society, a "white list" of druggists who agree not to sell any of their own specialties for ailments with names and symptoms in general circulation; not to handle any proprietary medicines, and not to compound any prescriptions calling for such remedies? Printed and dated lists could be supplied each member of the local society with his monthly announcement of meetings, and these lists could be handed to patients who inquire about druggists.

You will ask whether there are druggists who would agree to this. I took occasion before the fire when this idea first suggested itself to me to investigate the matter, and found among six or seven of the leading druggists and in all the first-class clinics that less than 3 per cent. of the prescriptions called for objectionable remedies. In other words, druggists have to order proprietary stuff in jobber's packages, often of one dozen, in order to put a few ounces of some remedy in a prescription, and they dare not refuse to compound such prescriptions for fear of losing family trade and offending the doctor. The jobber puts the screws on, hoping to get the druggist to help him advertise by making him buy proprietaries in large packages. Not a single high-class druggist offered any objection to the plan.

If it seems to you worth advocating, a committee of the Society could easily arrange it on a simple working basis. PHILIP KING BROWN.

#### WESTERN ORTHOPEDIC CLUB.

In response to a call issued by Dr. Harry M. Sherman, a meeting was held in San Francisco on February 22, 1914, and the Western Orthopedic Club was organized.

The following physicians interested in orthopedic surgery were invited to attend and constituted the original membership:

Dr. Carl C. Crane, 2371 Union St., San Francisco; Dr. Leo Eloesser, Butler Building, San Francisco; Dr. Leonard Ely, Stanford University Medical School, San Francisco; Dr. Arthur Fisher, City of Paris Building, San Francisco; Dr. H. H. Markel, 1270 Fourth Ave., San Francisco; Dr. George McClesney, Union Square Building, San Francisco; Dr. Joseph Milton, First National Bank Building,

Oakland; Dr. Harry M. Sherman, Union Square Building, San Francisco; Dr. Ethan Smith, Phelan Building, San Francisco; Dr. James T. Watkins, Union Square Building, San Francisco; Dr. Walter Baldwin, Butler Building, San Francisco.

The meetings are to be held at intervals of six weeks with the presentation of a paper on orthopedic surgery, followed by informal discussion.

Semi-annual clinical meetings at the hospitals and clinics of the members are to be arranged.

The following officers of the new society were selected to hold office for one year: President, Dr. Harry M. Sherman; secretary, Dr. Walter I. Baldwin.

At its first regular meeting, the Society was entertained in Oakland, California, by Dr. Joseph L. Milton, who ably outlined the subject of Tuberculous Hip Disease. The paper was discussed by Dr. James T. Watkins.

The interest shown seems to insure success for this new society for the advancement of orthopedic surgery on the Pacific Coast.

#### STAINING TUBERCLE BACILLUS.

To the Editor of the State Journal:

Dear Sir:—Believing that the counter staining in this method is original, I have called it my modification of the Mori improved stain for the tubercle bacillus.

The Mori method is as follows: "The carbol-fuchsin solution is made with 0.5 gm. fuchsin, 10 c. c. absolute alcohol, 2.5 gm. phenol and 100 c. c. distilled water. The fuchsin is dissolved in the alcohol, the phenol is then added, and then the water is stirred in a little at a time, and the mixture is then set aside for twenty-four hours and then filtered. Differentiation is done with a one per cent. solution of sulphuric acid, and the contrast staining with a 1 to 4000 solution of methylene blue. Each fluid is applied in turn for ten or fifteen minutes, washing in water between."

The Mori method is an exact and practical method of staining the bacillus of tuberculosis. It gives a beautiful result, does away with stained fingers and apparatus, and above all is a great time saver.

The modification I suggest consists in using a saturated alcoholic solution of methylene blue for one minute for the counter staining, instead of the 1/4000 solution of same for 10 to 15 minutes as in the Mori method.

The improvement I believe to be obvious: The saving of the 10 or 15 minutes more required by the former method.

L. M. RYAN, B. S., M. D., Banning, Calif.

#### RICE WANTED.

W. C. Rice, representing himself to be a deputy state organizer of the Order of Owls, is at present soliciting among the physicians around the bay, for charter membership in that order.

He claims to be organizing a lodge, has all the credentials, receipts, and a list of names of fake charter members, and wants two examining physicians in each community. He is an imposter, and the home lodge offers \$50 reward for his arrest. He wears large gold Masonic pin on coat lapel. If seen, hold and wire Alameda Police Department, Alameda, Cal.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

Bixby, W. E., Sebastopol.

#### DEATHS.

Mason, Wilton Marcellus, Lodi, Cal. (died in San Francisco).

Turner, G. Burton, San Francisco.

Davis, Wm. Henry, Monterey, Cal. (died in San Francisco).

Kuhlman, Chas. Geo., San Francisco.

Boyson, Thos., Plymouth, Calif.